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Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Note by the Secretariat concerning the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.1/Rev.1

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 7 of draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.1/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depository Governments of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as the decisions contained in the Final Report of the Special Conference, including all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Group;

(b) Note that, at the request of the States parties, a Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention will be held at Geneva from 25 November to 13 December 1996, that, following appropriate consultations, a Preparatory Committee for that Conference has been formed, open to all parties to the Convention, and that the Committee will meet at Geneva from 9 to 12 April 1996;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the Fourth Review Conference and its preparations;

(d) Decide to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production

and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

2. The requests contained in operative paragraphs 3 and 5 are related to major programme 1, Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and decolonization, programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised. 1/ They are covered under section 2, Political affairs, subprogramme 1, Deliberation and negotiation, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. 2/

3. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.1/Rev.1, it is the understanding of the Secretary-General that Secretariat assistance and substantive support services would be required for its implementation.

4. In addition, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, no modifications would be required in the activities under section 2, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 as the activities to be undertaken under the draft resolution fall under programme 7, Disarmament, subprogramme 1, Deliberation and negotiation, activity 1, International cooperation, (a) Depositary services.

5. With respect to assistance and services to be rendered to the Fourth Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee, which would meet at Geneva from 25 November to 13 December 1996 and 9 to 12 April 1996, respectively, the related requirements are estimated as follows:

	Fourth Review Conference	Preparatory Committee
	(United States dollars)	
(a) Conference-servicing costs		
(i) Pre-session documentation	109 400	32 200
(ii) Meeting servicing (Fourth Review Conference, 90 meetings; Preparatory Committee, 10 meetings)	628 400	69 800
(iii) In-session documentation	420 700	53 000
(iv) Post-session documentation	73 200	21 300
(v) Summary records	1 612 000	-
Total	2 843 700	176 300

	Fourth Review Conference	Preparatory Committee
	(United States dollars)	
(b) Non-conference-servicing costs		
(i) Travel and daily subsistence allowance for three Professionals and one General Service staff from the Centre for Disarmament Affairs	28 700	15 200
(ii) One work-month of temporary assistance	4 200	-
Total	32 900	15 200
Grand total (a) and (b)	2 876 600	191 500

6. No provisions have been made under section 2.C.4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 to undertake the activities enumerated in paragraph 5 above. It should be noted that the Fourth Review Conference, and its Preparatory Committee, are conferences of States parties to the Convention. As was the case in the past, conferences on multilateral disarmament treaties, for example, the Seabed Treaty, the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Environmental Modification Convention (ENMOD), included in their rules of procedure provisions concerning the arrangements for meeting the costs of the conference, including the sessions of the preparatory committee. Under those arrangements, no additional cost was borne by the regular budget of the Organization.

7. Accordingly, the Secretary-General considers that his mandate under draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.1/Rev.1 to provide the necessary assistance and required services for the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the Third Review Conference, as well as the decisions contained in the final report of the Special Conference, have no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations and that the associated costs would be met in accordance with the financial arrangements to be made by the conference of the Convention.

8. Furthermore, all activities related to international conventions or treaties that under their respective legal instruments are to be financed outside the regular budget of the United Nations may only be undertaken when sufficient resources to cover the activities in question have been received from the States parties in advance. It should be noted that costings are being provided for indicative purposes only and that the States parties to the Convention will have to bear the actual costs of holding the Conference and its Preparatory Committee meeting, which may be somewhat lower or higher than the estimated costs.

9. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.1/Rev.1, no additional requirements would arise under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1), vol. I.